

Appl. No. : 09/312,028
Filed : May 14, 1999

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on 1-27-06 indicates that the amendment document "filed on 2/02/05 is non-compliant because ... Claims 1-44 do not [sic, include] status identifiers." The amendment document referred to in the Notice was actually filed on 3-21-02. Per the Examiner's request, a photocopy of the amendment document was re-submitted to the Office on 2-5-2005.

When the amendment document was filed in 2002, the USPTO rules did not require status indicators to be included with all of the claims, and the amendment document was fully compliant with such rules. In addition, the Examiner's later request for a photocopy of the amendment did not trigger an obligation for Applicants to update the amendment document to comply with the new rules that had since gone into effect. Thus, the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment has apparently been issued in error.

Nevertheless, by this filing, Applicants are submitting a revised claims section showing the amendments made in the amendment document filed on 3-21-02, with status indicators showing the status of each claim.

Given the Office's delay of nearly four years in considering the amendment at issue, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the amendment without further delay.

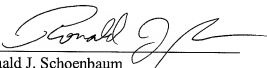
No fees are believed to be due. If, however, any fees are required now or in the future, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2-16-06

By:


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